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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| EDITORIAL, | 287 |
| REVENUE STAMPS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS SINCE THE | |
| AMERICAN OCCUPATION, - By J. C. Perry, M. D., | 289 |
| OUR ENGLISH LETTER, - by Edward J. Nankivell, | 297 |
| Notes upon Stamps and their Varieties,-By Geo. L. Toppan, | 302 |
| OUR INDIAN LETTER,-By E W. Wetherell, | 311 |
| Notes, | 313 |
| CHRONICLE, | 315 |
| THE COLLECTORS CLUB, - | 320 |

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A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Stamp Collectors.

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CO much has been written lately about "philately as an Signs of investment" and "philatelic speculation" that one the Times. might almost be pardoned for believing that the philately of to-day was fast becoming, if indeed it had not already become, merely another channel upon whose waters the collector might cast his bread with the certainty of reaping a rich reward, not after the proverbial "many days," but in the immediate future. This, while it is undoubtedly true in some instances, is so to a very limited extent only, and it is our firm conviction, based upon personal experience, that the great majority of collectors look upon their collections as a source of pleasure and recreation rather than as a financial investment. We are all human and, therefore, it is but natural for us to feel better pleased if our treasures, whether they be philatelic or otherwise, show an increased valuation from year to year than we should be were the reverse the case.

In our opinion, however, it is neither good taste nor good policy to keep the calcium light of publicity so constantly trained upon the sordid, commercial aspect of our hobby. It cannot but act as a deterrent upon the younger class which must furnish the advanced collectors of the future and, if it does not disgust him completely, it has a tendency to induce him to study his stamps less and the quotations of the catalogue more; a result, certainly, which is hardly conducive to the evolution of the the true philatelist.

What is true of the younger collectors is so, to a greater or less extent, of all classes and it seems, to us at least, that it would be much better for all concerned if the modern philatelic writers would strive to impress upon the minds of their readers the many pleasures to be derived from stamps rather than the question of stamp values.

The "dull season," so called, is drawing to a close and already collectors are taking up their albums; looking forward to the advent of the rew catalogues and asking each other about the outlook for the coming season. So far as we are able to judge the outlook never was brighter. A greatly increased demand is already apparent and, especially with the stamps of the

popular, or fashionable, countries, the dealers are experiencing more difficulty in obtaining than in disposing of them. Condition is, if possible, a still more potent factor in the market than ever before. So much so, in fact, that it takes precedence over every other consideration with the general run of the up to date collectors.

Judging from the dates already announced auctions will be well to the fore during the coming winter, indeed we anticipate that, in this respect, the

season will be a record breaker.

Upon every side we hear expressions of regret that Great Britain has allowed her colonies to descend to the level of issuing series of stamps "for revenue only." It is possible, and indeed probable in some cases, that the multiplicity of new varieties emanating from New Zealand and the Australian colonies during the past year or so have a valid reason for existing, but, in the case of the lately issued series for several of the Leeward Island group. we fail to see any adequate justification for their issue. They replace nothing; being on sale contemporaneously with the old Leeward Island series, You simply "pay your money and take your choice" as to which stamps you will have.

This state of affairs is bad enough with such recognized caterers to the philatelic appetite as Portugal, Spain, Venezuela, the Colombian Republic and France, but when a world power, and a wealthy one, like Great Britain permits her colonies to indulge in such evident chicanery it is time to call a halt and we trust that our friends "across the pond" will use their best en deavors to make the "powers that be" realize the error of their ways before it is too late.

We realize that our own Government is not entirely blameless in such matters but nevertheless, since the Columbian series of 1893 it has, at least, been gradually reducing the number of stamps composing its commemorative series and we trust that it will not be long before they are done away with altogether.-G. L. T.



Revenue Stamps of the Philippine Islands Since the American Occupation.

By J. C. PERRY, M. D., Manila, P. I.

(Continued from page 256.)

GIRO STAMPS, 1899.

Perforated 12.

The first issue of giro stamps in a special design was made in January, 1899, and may be briefly described as oblong in shape, blue color on a white background, having a shield with stars and stripes in center, with range on a label at the top and value on a label at the bottom. The word "GIRO" appears in the space above the shield, the words "INTERNAL REVENUE" in the angles formed by the lower part of the shield, and "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS" and date in the space below the shield. The words "UNITED STATES" are placed in two lines across the stripes of the shield. Size, 19x46mm.

The first issue is printed on thick, yellowish paper, the word "UNITED" covers five stripes of the shield and ends at the outer edge of the sixth stripe, and there is no serif to the "I" of the date "1899".

The denominations and quantities printed are:

| Denomination. | Color. | Quantity. |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| 5c de peso | blue | 4,000 |
| 15c de peso | 14 | 2,500 |
| 20c de peso | 44 | 3,000 |
| 30c de peso | 44 | 2,000 |
| 6oc de peso | ** | 2,000 |
| 8oc de peso | 44 | 2,000 |
| I peso 20C | . 41 | 2,000 |
| r peso 40c | 64 | 500 |
| ı peso 8oc | 44 | 1,000 |
| 2 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 2 peso 4oc | 44 | 500 |
| 3 peso | 44 | 500 |
| 3 peso 6cc | •6 | 500 |
| 4 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 5 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 6 peso | 44 | 500 |
| 7 peso | 44 | 500 |
| 8 peso | 16 | 500 |
| o peso | 64 | 500 |
| 10 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 15 peso | ** | 500 |
| 13 Peso | | 500 |
| | | |

I have seen all the denominations listed above, but no varieties.

GIRO, 1899.

Perforated 12.

A second printing of giro stamps was made in 1899, from new stones. It differs from the first issue by being printed on thin, soft, white paper, and by the "1" in the date "1899" having a serif.

The following were printed:

| Denomination, | Color. | Quantity. |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| 5c de peso | blue | 7,500 |
| 15c de peso | ** | 5,000 |
| 20c de peso | 46 | 7,500 |
| 30c de peso | ** | 7,500 |
| 60c de peso | 4.6 | 7,500 |
| 8oc de peso | 11 | 3,500 |
| 1 peso 20c | 46 | 7,500 |
| I peso 40c | - 46 | (1,500 |
| 1 peso 8oc | 4.0 | 1,000 |
| 2 peso | 44 | 4,500 |
| 2 peso 4oc | 46 | 1,000 |
| 3 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 3 peso 6oc | 46 | 500 |
| 4 peso | " | 500 |
| 5 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 6 peso | 46 | 500 |
| 7 peso | . 44 | . 500 |
| 8 peso | ** | 500 |
| 9 peso | 66 | 500 |
| 10 peso | - 11 | 500 |
| 15 peso | 46 | 500 |

I have seen all the denominations listed above, and several of the varieties catalogued by Morley, type 313. However, since only one printing was made in 1899, the varieties occur as a result of more than one engraver having been employed in preparing the stones. The stamps are printed in sheets of fifty, and minor varieties could easily occur when the stones are hurriedly prepared.

Variety " A "-Morley's type 313.

The last letter of "UNITED" ends halfway across a stripe.

peso 20c, blue peso "
peso "
peso "
peso "

6 peso

Variety "B"-Morley's type 316.

Stamp is rough in execution "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, 1899," very irregular.

4 peso, blue 6 peso " These stamps were reprinted from new stones, as those in use became broken during the process of printing the stamps.

GIRO STAMPS, 1900.

Perforated 12.

The giro stamps of 1900 are the same in type, paper and color as those printed in the second issue of 1899, the only difference being in the substitution of the date "1900" for that of "1899." I have seen all the following denominations with the word "UNITED" covering five stripes and ending on edge of a stripe. The denominations and quantities printed are:

| Denomination. | Color. | Quantity. |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| 5c de peso | blue | 22,000 |
| 15c de peso | 44 | 18,000 |
| 20c de peso | 45 | 10,000 |
| 30c de peso | 66 | 10,000 |
| 6oc de peso | 66 | 8,000 |
| 8oc de peso | ı | 2,000 |
| I peso 2oc | 44 | 4,000 |
| r peso 4cc | 44 | 4,000 |
| r peso 8oc | ds | 4,000 |
| 2 peso | 44 | 1,000 |
| 2 peso 4oc | 66 | 1,000 |
| 3 peso | 46 | 1,000 |
| 3 peso 6oc | 64 | 1,000 |
| 4 peso | 66 | 1,000 |
| 5 peso | 66 | 2,000 |
| 6 peso | 45 | 1,000 |
| 7 peso | 45 | 1,000 |
| 8 peso | 6 | 1,000 |
| g peso | 11 | 1,000 |
| 10 peso | 41 | 1,000 |
| | 46 | 1,000 |
| 15 peso | 46 | |

Variety " A."

Type in which the last letter of "UNITED" ends halfway across a stripe:

20c de peso, blue
20c de peso, pale blue
1 peso 20c, blue
1 peso 40c, blue
2 peso, pale blue
2 peso, blue
3 peso, blue
3 peso, pale blue
4 peso, blue
5 peso, blue
15 peso, blue

Variety "B."

Variety with error in the range, 6,000 á 6,800 instead of 5,000 á 6,000 :

4 peso, pale blue

4 peso, blue

Variety "C," thinner paper:

15c de peso, blue

Variety "D", no period after "Peso":

30c de peso, blue

Variety "E", no serif to "I" in date "1900":

r peso 20c, blue

Variety "F".

Rough execution, "PHILIPPINE ISLANDS" very irregular:

3 oc de peso, blue 6 oc de peso " 1 peso 2 oc " 2 peso " 3 peso "

5 peso "
6 peso "

Variety "G", figure "6" reversed in scale:

30c de peso, blue

The varieties of the 1900 giro stamps have been taken from Morley's catalogue of the "Revenue Stamps of Spain and Colonies". I have seen several of the varieties listed, but not all of them, owing to the lack of

opportunities to study the giro stamps.

Since there was only one printing of the 1900 giro stamps, except in the case of the denominations 5c de peso, 15c de peso, 1 peso 40c, 1 peso 80c, it is clear that the varieties listed occurred in faulty preparation of the stones for printing the stamps, the varieties being produced in some of the blocks of fifty.

In December, 1900, a new issue of the following giro stamps was placed in use. They differ from the 1900 issue by the omission of the date:

Denomination.

5c de peso
20c de peso
80c de peso

Color.

Store peso
Blue
Store
Sto

GIRO STAMPS, 1901 AND 1902.

Perforated 12.

The stamps printed during these years are of the same type as those of the December, 1900, issue, only differing from the regular 1900 issue by the omission of the date. The following denominations and quantities were printed:

| Denomination. | Color. | Quantity. |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| 5c de peso | blue | 32,000 |
| 15c de peso | 6. | 15,000 |
| 2cc de peso | ** | 24,000 |
| 30c de peso | 44 | 25,000 |
| 6:c de peso | 41 | 15,000 |
| 80c de peso | 48 | 6,000 |
| 1 peso 200 | 66 | 1,000 |
| 2 peso | 44 | 6,000 |
| 2 peso 4oc | 16 | 1,000 |
| 3 peso | 44 | 1,000 |
| 3 peso 6oc | " | 1,000 |
| 4 peso | 41 | 1,000 |

Only those listed above were printed without date in frame, since supplies of the 1 peso 40c, 1 peso 80c, and the higher peso values of the 1899 and

1900 issues were on hand in sufficient quantities

In December, 1902, a new issue of giro stamps, engraved and printed from electrotype plates, in sheets of fifty, was placed in use. The stamps of this issue maintain the same form and type as those of 1901, excepting that the range in the upper label has been changed from Spanish to English. The color is deep slate blue, and in appearance the stamp is entirely different from the lithographed types. In all so far seen, the word "UNITED" ends halfway across a stripe. All denominations from 5c de peso to 15 pesos will be issued in this type, the other issues becoming obsolete.

The following have already been printed, perforated 12:

| 5c de peso, | slate | blue |
|-------------|-------|------|
| 20c de peso | 44 | 4.5 |
| 25c de peso | 41 | - 66 |
| 30c de peso | 46 | 4; |
| 60c de peso | 66 | 61 |
| 8oc de peso | 44 | 64 |
| I peso 200 | - 61 | 66 |
| r peso 8oc | 66 | 44 |
| 5 peso | 66 | 66 |
| to peso | 66 | ** |
| | | |

CUSTOMS STAMPS.

On February 6, 1902, the Philippines Customs Administrative Act became a law, and the Internal Revenue stamps previously used on documents issued by the Custom House were replaced by special stamps provided for in the following extract from the above-mentioned Act:

THE PHILIPPINES CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATIVE ACT.

CHAPTER XXII.

STAMPS.

"Sec. 284. The following papers shall not be issued, received, granted

or in any manner recognized by any customs officer unless there shall be affixed thereto a lawful customs stamp or stamps of the Philippine Islands, representing the value in United States currency as follows, subject to the exemptions prescribed by section 135 of this act for vessels possessing second-class licenses:

| Each clearance, | \$2 | 00 |
|---|-----|----|
| Original inward manifest of each vessel, | 2 | 00 |
| Each bill of health, | | 50 |
| Each outward foreign passenger list, | | 50 |
| Each original export entry exceeding \$25 00 in value, | | 50 |
| Each original import entry exceeding \$25.00 in value, | | 50 |
| Each original withdrawal entry. | | 20 |
| Each entry for immediate transportation in bond, | | 50 |
| Each original free entry, except free entries of stores for Gov | | 3- |
| ernment use, exceeding \$10.00 in value, | | 20 |
| Each original certificate, | | 50 |
| Each original bond, | | 50 |
| Each copy of official document, | | 50 |

Until due provision can be made for printing a supply of customs stamps, the Insular Collector is authorized to make requisition upon the Collector of Internal Revenue of these Islands for a sufficient number of internal revenue stamps, which shall first be stamped across their face with the word "customs" and then kept for sale by customs officers for use in compliance with the provisions of this section. The funds accruing from the sale of the internal revenue stamps so used and sold for customs purposes, and from the sale of all customs stamps, shall be regularly deposited as customs collections. These stamps shall be in lieu of the internal revenue stamps heretofore used on the above mentioned customs documents.

SEC. 285.—The fees lawfully chargeable upon the issue to vessels of certificates of protection, or of licenses for the coasting trade, or other papers pretaining thereto, shall be received in cash by collectors before the issuance thereof, and the amount received and the date of such receipt and the signature of the officer receiving the same shall be entered on such paper."

However, it was necessary to take advantage of the provision made for the provisional use of internal revenue stamps surcharged "CUSTOMS" pending the printing of the special stamps, and these provisional stamps were in use from February 7 to April 17, 1902.

There are two general types of these provisionals, one surcharged with

frame and one without frame.

The following denominations of 1902 internal revenue stamps were surcharged in various colors of ink:

1c de peso 2c de peso 5c de peso 1oc de peso 25c de peso 4cc de peso 5oc de peso 1 peso 2 peso The following varieties in surcharge have been seen:

| Done | omination. | Color. | | | Surcharg | 70 | | |
|-------|-------------|------------|----------|--|------------|-------|----------------------|--|
| Delle | | | and our | ahanaa | | | | |
| 1. | ic de peso | gray black | | red surcharge with frame | | | | |
| (a) | ic de peso | 66 66 | | double surcharge with frame inverted surcharge with frame | | | | |
| (p) | ic de peso | | | | | | | |
| | 2c de peso | carmine | green s | urchai | ge with fr | | | |
| | 2c de peso | 46 | 11 1 | 46 | withou | | ame | |
| | 2c de peso | 41 | black | 41 | | | | |
| | ac de peso | | purple | | , " | | | |
| (a) | 2c de peso | ., (q | (one inv | | | surc | harge without frame | |
| | 2c de peso | 46 | purple | surcha | arge with | fram | e | |
| | 2c de peso | 46 | red sur | - | - · · | + 5 | | |
| | 2c de peso | 44 | | . 0 | | t fra | ame, smaller type | |
| (b) | 2c de peso | 66 | | | | | ce ic de peso, green | |
| (0) | ac de peso | | | | rge withou | | | |
| (c) | ac de neso | 46 | | | | | ic de peso, red sur- | |
| (0) | 2c de peso | | | | with fran | | re de peso, red sur- | |
| (4) | an do none | 66 | | - | | - | neso value red sur | |
| (d) | 2c de peso | | | | | | peso value, red sur- | |
| | 1 | blue | | | with fran | | | |
| 1.1 | 5c de peso | Diue | red sui | charg | e with fra | | | |
| (a) | 5c de peso | 11 | 46 | 48 | 1.1 | 4 | verted surcharge | |
| 12.3 | 5c de peso | ** | 46 | 66 | without | | | |
| (p) | | 41 | 41 | 66 | | | surcharge | |
| (c) | | ** | | | | | d surcharge | |
| | roc de peso | green | 66 | 41 | | me | | |
| | roc de peso | 46 | 66 | ** | without | | ne | |
| | roc de peso | 4.6 | blue | 46 | ** | 4.6 | | |
| | rcc de peso | 44 | 64 | 64 | with | 66 | | |
| | 10c de peso | 44 | 41 | 41 | without | 44 | smaller type | |
| | roc de peso | ** | violet | 41 | with | 66 | | |
| | 25c de peso | purple | green | 44 | without | 66 | | |
| (a) | 25c de peso | 41 | 44 | 45 | 66 | 46 | inverted surcharge | |
| | 25c de peso | 41 | red | 44 | with | 66 | | |
| (b) | 25c de peso | 44 | 46 | 44 . | 6.6 | 61 | inverted surcharge | |
| . , | 25c de peso | 66 | purple | 41 | without | 66 | 8 | |
| (c) | 25c de peso | 66 | | | gonally, t | o m | ake 121/2c de peso, | |
| | | | | | | | nout frame | |
| | 4cc de peso | blue | | - | e with fr | | 7 | |
| | 50c de peso | vellow | 44 | 41 | ** | 61 | | |
| | soc de peso | 16 | blue | 46 | 46 | 66 | | |
| | 1 peso | carmine | green | 44 | 46 | 66 | | |
| | r peso | 44 | blue | 66 | without | 66 | | |
| | | 64 | | 66 | with | 64 | | |
| (a) | i peso | 44 | purple | 64 | 44 | 44 12 | overted surcharge | |
| (a) | | Groon | raddick | news. | le surchas | | | |
| | 2 peso | green | reduisi | , barb | ie surchar | | rith frame | |
| | 2 peso | . 66 | bricks | | | | rithout frame | |
| 111 | 2 peso | a | bright | carmii | ne surchai | ige v | vith frame | |
| (b) | 2 peso | 10.1111 | | | | | " inverted | |
| | | | | surc | charge | | | |

The surcharge consists of the word "customs" in sans serif capitals, 4mm. high and 19mm long. The frame is double-lined and measures about

21x24mm. It may be pertinent to state that the 2c de peso stamp was split to make the one cent and ½ cent values on account of the limited supply of regular 1c de peso stamps surcharged, and in order to comply with a rate of 2.27, since a bill of health required a stamp to the value of 50 cents gold, and consequently to be exact, required stamps to the value of \$1.13½ Mexican. The 25c de peso stamp was also cut to make a 12½ cent value on this account. However, the split values are very rare and only a few were so used, since the regular stamps became available soon after the 2.27 rate went into effect.

On April 18, 1902, the regular issue of the Customs stamps was printed and placed in use. They are lithographed productions measuring 30x45 mm. In the center is a large shield with stars and horizontal bars and having the words "CUSTOMS" across the middle. "PHILIPPINES" is curved above the shield and "SERVICE" below it. All this is on a background of rayed lines. There are ornaments at each corner of the rectangle. The word "STAMP" is on a panel at the top and the value on a similar panel at the bottom.

The denominations and quantities printed are as follows, the values being represented in gold:

| Denomination. | Color. | Quantity. |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 20 cent | blue | 25,000 |
| 50 cent | yellow green | 50,000 |
| 2 dollar | carmine | 10,000 |

There was only one printing of these stamps and they were replaced on October 31, 1902, by engraved stamps (electrotype plate), of the same design and approximately the same colors, as follows:

20 eent, pale blue 50 cent, pale green 2 dollar, carmine

However, the engraved stamps are quite distinct from the previous issue,

and probably will remain current for some time.

I think that it will be readily seen from this article that the Philippine Islands have been very productive in revenue stamps since the American occupation, and that a fruitful field has been furnished the specialist in the interesting branch of fiscal collecting.

MANILA, P. I., March 15, 1903.



Our English Letter.

BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

LONDON, 22, August, 1903.

Now is the winter of the stamp dealers discontent, that is to say of those who cannot afford to spend the idle August elsewhere than in London waiting daily for customers who are "out of town." Some dealers are away on the Continent, others are at the seaside, a few are in town. I met one in town the other day, and though he is a notorious grumbler, he confessed that business is not so bad. That looks as if the turn of the tide is perilously near.

The prisoners in the Official Stamp case have all been committed for trial, which means that they will be placed on trial at the Old Bailey at the next sessions. The Old Bailey is our great criminal court. It is a serious matter for them, despite the evidence that was put in as to higher officials helping themselves. In Creeke's case, even if he clears himself eventually, as I trust and hope he will, the mere conviction will be serious to him, as a solicitor, in his profession.

Creeke made a smart move in attempting to put detective Ward on his trial for forging his name on the telegram that trapped Walter Richards. But the magistrate held that, although it was a case of forgery, no one had been injured by it.

I wonder how long stamp collectors are going to allow themselves to be exploited for shows and poverty stricken islands. I have no sympathy with your show stamps and, if possible, I have less patience with the sets of stamps that are to run "concurrently" with the regular stamps in the islands of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and St Kitts. If the postal authorities had restored the separate issues to these islands in the usual way they would have made legitimate revenue to a very considerable extent, but to expect that stamp collectors are going to take kindly to mere pictures that are all issued solely for sale to them and are not compulsory for postal purposes is a bit too thick. This is a new form of speculation on the part of governments that is, in my opinion, much worse than the Seebeck rubbish, for even that was, during its issue, compulsory, but this new fangled lot of pictures has not even that recommendation.

One thing is certain, and that is that, however many fools may buy this rubbish at first, it works permanent harm in the end to the issuing government, for it generates a prejudice against the issuing country and, when a collector has to make his choice of the countries which he will collect out of the few that he can cover, the sinning ones will be the first to be struck out of the list. Already there is a considerable array of countries which no sane

collector dreams of collecting. What sane collector, for instance, now collects North Borneo or Labuan modern issues, or Seebecks? The rational stamp collector wants clean countries and as there is a fairly wide choice of them he has no need of collecting rubbish.

This survival of the fittest is a process which will and must of necessity gather strength and importance in stamp collecting, as issues and stamp issueing countries increase. The field is now so extended that selection is the one question of the day. What country or countries shall I collect? is now the one question for the beginner. The old dictum that it is best to begin as a general collector is less and less insisted upon by the philatelic patriarchs. And, as time goes on, it will be laughed at as too ludicrous for serious consideration. Hence, it will soon become a question of classing groups and countries for selection, and setting out the claims of each class. And some day even dealers will be compelled to make their choice also.

In the no very distant future each dealer will probably have to confine his business to a selection of countries and deal in no others. At present, naturally, he likes to have as many strings to his bow as possible, but it is getting to be very expensive to keep so many strings going. To keep even a fairly decent stock of even one half of the countries nowadays means a heavy capital account, much of which must be dead capital, capital that is earning no return. Therefore, I shall not be surprised if, in the near future, we find dealers making a pick of the best of the best selling countries and stocking only those. In that day the rubbish will go unregretted to the wall. Then will be the day of serious reckoning for those countries that have played fast and loose with collectors. Then the recognized lists for serious collectors will no longer waste paper and print in advertising their rubbish. They will be left for inclusion in a special catalogue for stamp flats.

And, as that day is surely approaching, it will be well for those countries that wish to retain the custom of collectors to be careful, even now, that they do not prejudice their chances of being classed with the best, instead of being relegated to the limbo of wise neglect. The sensational sale of a new issue of a little island colony may astonish the financiers for a year, but the steady falling off of revenue in succeeding years may be a lesson too dearly bought.

Those countries will get an improving revenue from stamp collectors which keep their issues clean from speculative swindles, and those countries which go in for making hay while the sun shines will find that they are gradually, but certainly, cutting off what would have been a steady revenue. These are the only arguments that will now weigh with most issuing governments. Governments don't care a tinker's curse about the sentiment of honesty in stamp issues but they will have to care many a curse about a seriously decreasing revenue. The stamp collector who buys millions of stamps at face that cost only a few pence per thousand to produce and who exacts, in

return for his money, nothing whatever in the shape of postal service, is now an important consideration to very many issuing States. He, therefore, deserves and can enforce better treatment.

LONDON, 29, Ausust, 1903.

What a hubbub there is over the multitude of varieties that our Australian friends are turning out. Even the Australian philatelic journals are in revolt over their ever increasing number. I hear of many philatelists getting tired of them They are hungering for the settled series for the Commonwealth. Even Mr. Castle has been on the war path against the out-put. Well, I sympathise with the outcry, but, all the same, I cannot help thinking that some allowance should be made for the exceptional circumstances which may be said to be the direct cause of the makeshift issues. So far, I have seen no evidence that any variety is due to any attempt to exploit stamp collectors; and so long as the varieties remain free from this suspicion I am content and shall endeavor to keep pace with the outflow. The issues from New Zealand, for little outlying rocks, must, I fear, be closely watched They are obviously open to the suspicion of milking stamp collectors

The 9d. stamp issued for Queensland and New South Wales as the forerunner of the Commonwealth stamp issue appears to be more of a comic production than a serious attempt to produce a sensible issue. The old guy that
does duty for Britannia in the design must have been waylaid very late at
night in the Australian bush. She looks very seedy and very much out of
condition. It cannot be intended to offer such a common rag-and bone-shop
thing as representative of the Great Comm nwealth that needs no such word
as 'Australian' to particularise it. But then! Victoria never has scored much
success in the line of figure drawing in its stamps. And this fresh effort is
very much on a par with the caricatures of the queen's head on the early
Victorians. Indeed one is almost inclined to suggest that they must have
resuscitated the remains of the lamented engraver of the early Victorians for
the production of the new Commonwealth stamp.

Our auction season is to open in the last week of next month, and we shall be a little curious to know what will be the effect of the exposure by the Philatelic Society, of London, of the practice of owners running up their own stamps in the auction room The publication of the fact that according to the law of the country, any bidder can claim a stamp at his own bid, no matter how low that bid may be, if there is no higher genuine bid and no declared reserve will, I think, be a surprise to many. An owner, also, may be somewhat surprised to learn that all his own running up does not count in the little game. And what a pretty old state of affairs it will bring about. Many dealers have been in the habit of supplying the auctions with stuff, and they have generally kept a string on what they have put in, the result being that such stuff does duty a little too often. Some auctions have been positively notorious in this respect, the same stamps turning up in catalogue after catalogue until collectors got positively sick of the game. And I happen to know one or two determined collectors who intend to test these sales. They will bid for the suspected lots and they will claim them in the absence of genuine bids against them. So we may have lively times during the coming season. But those who wish to continue the game will probably find more than one way out of the difficulty.

There are some interesting revelations in the opening article of a series on the stamps of British East Africa in the *Monthly Journal*. The 8a. grey and the 1r grey, of the Company issue of 1890-1 have always been regarded as scarce stamps, but it is an eye opener to know that of the 8a. grey, only 1500 were printed and of the 1r. only 2100. The Company explains the issue of the grey stamps as having been prepared more particularly for Inland Revenue purposes, but, as it was not found convenient to have two stamps of the same value in different colors. it was decided to use up those already printed for postal purposes. So that disposes of the early theory that these greys were errors of color. In this instance it will be interesting to note the range of catalogue price of these two stamps from 1896:—

| | 1896 | 1897 | 1899 | 1900 | 1902 | 1903 |
|---------------|----------|------|----------|------|------|----------|
| 8 annas, grey | 8s. | 15S. | 17s. 6d. | 20S. | 258. | 328. 6d. |
| I rupee, grey | 128. 6d. | 20S. | 178. 6d. | 205. | 255. | 255. |

Thus it will be seen that the 1r. started as first favorite, then they evened up in 1899, and ran even in price until the issue of the current Gibbons when the truth leaked out behind the scenes and the price in our Gibbons is altered in accordance with the now published facts regarding the greater scarcity of the 8a.

Another notable thing in connection with these two stamps is the fact that they have steadily risen in price over all these severely testing years, from 1896 on through the following year of inflation and continuously through the years of subsequent slump. There are not many other stamps that have done this. And I think the general opinion is that they are not likely to go lower, for it is getting increasingly difficult to secure them in mint condition.

I was particularly fortunate in getting them included in the set I secured for 12s. 6d. when the remainders were sold. I thought myself fortunate then, and it seems I was not mistaken. The dealer who very kindly obliged me with that set did not regard their inclusion in the series as anything abnormal at the time indeed I was then under the impression that they were part of the remainder sales. How they really got into those sets I cannot say. A few must have got into the remainders.

British East Africa is a fine country for the specialist, despite the fact that it is a largely surcharged country. Its fine series make grand ranges in the album, and not a few of them are very difficult to complete. The hand-stamped July 1895, series is being absorbed to such an extent that very few dealers now can show even a fair lot of the commoner, to say nothing of the

rarer stamps. It will be interesting to note what the joint authors of the *Monthly Journal* articles have to say regarding the relative rarity of this series. According to the numbers given some years ago the 2a. vermilion, is by far the scarcest stamp, but the supplies forthcoming have not seemed to bear out this statement, the 1 anna green, is much higher priced and the 5 annas tops the lot of the anna values



Notes upon Stamps and their Varieties.*

GEO. L. TOPPAN.

In this series of articles it is our intention to explain, in as concise and lucid a style as possible, the many varieties of design which, while listed (usually in small type) in the catalogues, are generally more or less obscure to all but the specialist or advanced collector.

United States.

POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONALS.

New York, 1845.





5c. Double line at bottom.—This variety (Fig. 2), which is said to occur three times on the sheet, consists merely of an extra frame line at the bottom of the stamp, thus producing a double, instead of a single, lined frame on that portion of the stamp.

5c. Double transfer.—This variety is due to a misplaced transfer and shows the outlines of the words "FIVE CENTS" repeated across the face of the original inscription.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES.

1847.



Fig. 3



TOC. Double transfer.—This may be readily recognized by the appearance of the letters forming the inscriptions: (Fig. 4) "POST OFFICE" and "TEN CENTS", which, owing to the misplaced transfer, look as though they had been intentionally shaded.

1851-56.



1c. Type I.—This is the original and perfect form of the stamp (Fig. 5). There is a curved line outside of, and parallel to, the labels inscribed

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"U. S. POSTAGE" and "ONE CENT". The ornaments below the lower label are turned under and form small, but perfect, scrolls.

All reprints are of this type.

1c. Type II.—Very similar to type I excepting that a portion of the

ends of the scrolls has been cut away. (Fig. 6).

(Fig. 7), differs from the last inasmuch as the curved lines outside the labels are broken in the centre. This may occur either in the top or bottom line, or both

distinguishable from type II as the curved lines outside the labels are deeper and harder than the other lines. The recutting often begins and ends abruptly, not joining smoothly with the original line.

This is the most common variety of the imperforate stamps.

IC. Double transfer.—Several double transfers are known; the most notable shows the outlines of "ONE CENT" repeated across the face of the letters.

3c. Double transfer.—Several varieties exist; the most notable shows

a horizontal line through the words "THREE CENTS".

ICC.—There is a line of color above and following the outline of the label inscribed "U. S. POSTAGE" and similar line below the label with the words "TEN CENTS".

roc. Type I.—Both lines are complete.

Type II.—One or both of the lines are broken in the center.

Type III.—One or both of the lines have been recut.

Type IV.—The outer lines are as in type I, but the arabesque ornaments at the sides have been slightly cut away.

Type V.—The same as type II, with the side ornaments cut away.

Type VI—The same as type III, with the side ornaments cut away.

1857-60.

same is true of the double transfers. The

3c. Type I.—This variety, commonly known as the 'outer line", shows a thin, straight line of color at the top and bottom of the stamp, All imperforates stamps are of this type.

3c. Type II. - The thin line of color at the top and bottom of the stamp

has been removed to allow for the perforations.

The double transfers are found here as in the imperforate stamp; all are type I.







Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

5c. Type I.—In this type the projections on all four sides of the stamp are equally prominent and distinct. (Fig. 8). All the imperforate stamps are of this type.

5c. Type II.—In this, commonly known as the "ornaments partly removed", (Fig. 9), a portion of the projections at top and bottom have

been cut away.

5c. Type III.—In this variety, known as "ornaments entirely removed",

the cutting process has been carried still further and the entire projections at top and bottom have been removed, (Fig. 10).

oc.—Types as in the imperforate issue excepting that type VI is not

known perforated.

1861.

The stamps issued in August of this year, commonly known as the Premières gravures, differ from the ordinary, or September, types as follows:



Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.

1c.—The extreme tip of the upper, left hand ornament is directly above the "P" of "POSTAGE". In the first type (Fig. 11) this tip rests upon the curved line but does not extend below it while, in the second type, (Fig. 12), there is a strong dash under the tip and below the line.



Fig. 13.



Fig. 14.

3c.—The August type (Fig. 13), shows but slight ornamentation at the corners, giving a rather unfinished appearance to the stamp. The second type (Fig. 14), has considerable more ornamental work on the corners, each of which is finished off with a small ball, giving the stamp a more finished and rectangular outline.



Fig. 15.



Fig. 16.

5c.—In the August type (Fig. 15), the foliated ornamentation at the corners presents a rather flattened aspect giving to the corners a rounded appearance.

In the September type (Fig. 16), the corner ornaments have been somewhat enlarged, noticeably by the addition of a small leaf-like projection which springs outward from about the centre of the original ornamentation.



Fig. 17.



Fig 18.

roc.—In the August type (Fig. 17), the upper portion of the background, containing the five stars, is separated from the label directly below

it by a colorless line only.

In the September type (Fig 18), this colorless line is re-enforced by an heavy line of color which has been cut along the lower ends of the lines of the background above. An outer line has, also, been added to all the ornaments above the stars.



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

12c.—The August type (Fig. 19), of this value presents the most unfinished appearance of any of the series There is no ornamentation whatever, other than a thin line of color, outside the lathe-work mat.

In the September type (Fig. 20), ornaments have been added at all'four

corners, squaring the design so to speak, as well as at the sides.

24c and 3cc.—There are no variations in the designs for these two values. The colors of the first printing differ most decidedly from those of the ordinary stamps and they may easily be recognized by anyone at all familiar with them. It would, however, be impossible to describe the colors so as to enable one not familiar with them to differentiate between the two series.



Fig. 21



Fig. 22.

90c.—In the August type (Fig. 21), of this value the white space between the outer frame lines and above the label inscribed "U. S. POSTAGE" is perfectly blank and the inner frame line makes a smooth joint at its apex.

In the September type (Fig. 22), this white space contains a series of small dashes, making a broken line of color, and a decided point of color

has been added to the frame line at its apex.

Occasionally this broken line is too faint to be easily discerned, but the point of color is usually distinct.



Fig. 23.

1869.

15c. Type I. (Fig. 23)—Here the central picture is enclosed by a frame consisting of three parallel lines which, at the middle of the top, form a diamond-shaped ornament. It is commonly called "picture framed" or "with diamond."



Fig. 24.

15c. Type II. (Fig. 24).—In this type the frame lines and the diamond are omitted.

Another variety may be found, as follows:—In type I there is, also within the space for the picture, a band, about ¾ mm. wide, formed of short, diagonal lines, which extends across the bottom and both ends of the tablet. In type II these lines are horizontal and the band measures one mm. wide.



Fig. 25.

It extends all around the tablet. In type III (Fig. 25) there is but one of these lines, which extends across the top of the tablet where it curves up to a point under the 'T" of "POSTAGE." This last variety is only known to exist in the re-issue of 1875.

1870-73.



Fig. 26.



Fig. 22.

1870. IC —In the National Bank Note Co.'s. series the small pearl immediately to the left of the numeral of value is perfectly colorless. (Fig. 26)

1873. 1c.—In Continental Bank Note Co.'s series a small, curved dash will be found in this pearl. (Fig. 27.)



Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.

1870. 2c.—The background of the shield below the colorless ball at the left of the "s" of "v s." is composed of vertical lines (Fig 29)

1873 2c.—The background below the ball is crossed by a short, diagonal line (Fig. 29)

In the greater number of cases this line is very indistinct and hard to find but if, at this point, the space between the ornamental outline of the panel inscribed "U S. POSTAGE" and the first vertical line of the background (counting toward the left) is blurred or partly filled with color, it may be accepted as an indication of the presence of the line. On all the stamps printed by the National Bank Note Co. this space is quite clear and white.



Fig 30.



1870. 3c.—The shading below the forks of the ribbon inscribed

"THREE" is very light. (Fig. 30).
1873. 3c —A heavy shading has been added below the upper fork of the ribbon bearing the word "THREE". (Fig. 31)





6c.—The shading in the curve of the ribbon bearing the word "six" is very uniform. (Fig. 32)

1873. 6c. The first four lines (counting from the left) of the shading in the curve of the ribbon bearing the word "six" have been recut and deepened. (Fig. 33)





1871. 7c. - The ball in the lower, right corner is outlined by a colorless line only. (Fig. 34.)

1873. 7c. Two small semi circles have been drawn around the ends of the lines which outline the ball in the lower right corner. (Fig. 35.)



Fig. 36.



Fig. 37.

1870. 10c. - The small ball which terminates the right end of the panel inscribed "U. S. POSTAGE" is colorless. (Fig 36).

1873. 10c - A small, colored semi-circle has been placed within the ball which terminates the right end of the panel inscribed "U. S. POSTAGE". (Fig. 37).



Fig. 38.



12c. - The two white balls of the figure "2" are full and complete. 1870. (Fig. 38).

1873. 12c.—The two white balls of the figure "2" have been cut away until they are nearly crescent shaped. (Fig. 39).





15c.—The lines of the triangle in the upper left corner are very uniform. (Fig. 40).

1873. 15c -In the triangle in the upper left corner two lines, at the lower angle have been recut and deepened, forming a sort of V. (Fig. 41).

There are no varieties of the three higher values of the 1870-75 set as, though the marks were added to the dies, no new plates were afterwards made for any of these values.





ic and 3c, with Fletcher, or cog wheel, punch.—This was produced by eight punches, shaped like the letter " u". (Fig. 42), placed in a circle with the openings inward. The expectation was that, the stamp having been once attached to an envelope, it would be impossible to remove it without destroying it. The punches merely cut through the paper but removed nothing.

1882.-RE-ENGRAVED.

rc - The vertical lines of the background have been much deepened in the upper part of the stamp, so that, in many impressions, the background appears to be solid. Lines of shading have been added inside the arabesques in the upper corners.

3c.—The vertical lines of the shield have been deepened, making the shadows of the medallion appear, by contrast, only about one half as wide

as before.

At the bottom the horizontal lines of the background have been deepened, thus obliterating the fine, vertical shadings below the ends of the ribbon bearing the value A short, horizontal dash has been cut about a millimetre below the "TS" of "CENTS".

6c.- The horizontal lines of the panel have been re-engraved obscuring the shadings of the edges and of the oval and giving it an uniformly solid

appearance.

1cc.—The lines of the medallion, the shield and the background have all been re engraved. In the medallion the diagonal hatching lines have disappeared. At the left side, where there were formerly five vertical lines between the medallion and the edge of the shield, there are now but four. The fine vertical shading below the ribbon bearing the value is nearly obliterated by the deepened, horizontal lines of the background. The reengraved die was made from a transfer of the old National die and so has not the secret mark.



Fig. 43.

double paper, a very thin surface paper, backed by a thicker and harder quality. The surface paper was punctured by many small holes, about 1½ mm. in diameter. These holes were arranged in circles—eight holes to a circle—and the circles were placed at such intervals that one would fall upon each stamp (Fig. 43.) The printed stamps did not differ in appearance from the ordinary varieties, but, of course the ink had passed through the holes and portions of the design were printed upon the backing paper. Any attempt to erase a cancellation would be almost certain to tear the thin surface paper, while the application of any liquids would cause the stamp to separate into two parts. one showing a circle of small holes and the other a white surface with a circle of colored dots.



2c. Capped numerals.—These varieties, of which there are three, one showing the cap, (Fig. 44), which is a colorless mark, above the right hand numeral of value, the second showing it above the left hand numeral and the third showing it above both numerals, are caused by damaged transfer rolls. By some means, probably over hardening, a bit of the roll was chipped off and the "caps" were the result.





Fig. 45.



Fig. 46



Fig. 47.

- 2c. Type I.—The horizontal lines of the background are of equal thickness within and without the triangle. (Fig. 45).
- 2c. Type II.—The lines are thinner within the triangle than without. (Fig. 46).
- 2c. Type III.—The space between the double lines of the triangle is blank and the lines in the inner triangle are thin (Fig. 47)
 - An interesting combination may be found in Plate 170; in the upper left

quarter the first three vertical rows at the left side are of type II, while the balance of the plate is of type III,

CARRIERS' STAMPS.

Semi-Official Issues.

Baltimore, Md.

1851.



Fig. 48.



Fig. 49.

IC. Short Rays.—In the normal stamp (Fig. 48), there is a series of rays extending diagonally downward from the lower line of the ribbon bearing "GOVERNMENT" The lower end of these rays, at the left, impinge upon the head of the horseman and upon the upper frame of the streamer inscribed "ONE CENT".

In the variety the three rays below the letters "VER" of "GOVERNMENT" are only about half the usual length. (Fig. 40).

are only about half the usual length. (Fig 49).

10 One Sent.—In this variety the inscription on the streamer reads.

"ONE SENT".

The above varieties are found in both the red and black impressions.

Charleston S C.

1849.



Fig 50.

2c. Yellow.—A variety of this stamp (Fig. 50) exists in which the word "CENTS" is spelled "CENTS".

1852.



Fig. 51.

2c. Gray blue - A variety of this stamp (Fig. 51) exists in which the word "CENTS" is spelled "CENT".

Our Indian Letter.

By E. W. WETHERELL.

Since last writing to you from camp I have taken that short run home which, in India, is known as "90 days privilege" a break of three months in which we are supposed to recuperate mentally and physically and—in the

case of stamp collectors - philatelically also.

How different are the stamp collector's surroundings in the East and the West In London one is in the thick of it The societies were in full swing during my holiday—meetings of one or another club every week and, in some cases the same familiar faces might be seen at the London Society, the Fiscal Society, the Herts, I. P. U. and other clubs. Here, on the other hand, one meets a brother collector once a year or so, and in place of the Bacons, Nankivells and Oldfields of collectors at home, only the collector of Bhor and Bhopal is usually to be met with in Southern India and instead of meeting a philatelist of almost world wide repute at every turn, one is separated by thousands of miles from a kindred spirit.

I must take this opportunity of correcting an impression which a former letter of mine may have produced. In writing on the subject of "On H. M. S." surcharges I stated that they were no better than precancelled stamps—being merely a preventative of theft. This is not at all the meaning of my note. Mr C. Stewart-Wilson, commenting on my letter, points out that Mysore is quite exceptional in having its official letters carried free and he further adds that a one anna official stamp will frank a much heavier letter than an ordinary one anna stamp. Since they carry different franking powers, they are, of course different stamps. I had no intention of stating that they were not so but, unfortunately, mixed up my statement regarding stamps obliterated before use in public offices with the official stamps issued to Government offices. The extra franking power only applies to the "Service" stamps and not to those which may be found surcharged "Court of Wards" or "On Local Fund Service" or "Bengal Secretariat", "Raj", &c., &c., it was to these latter stamps that my remarks applied.

I do not know whether your readers are interested in "flaws". During my stay in London Mr. C. J. Phillips, the well-known head of 'tanley Gibbons Ltd, showed me portions of the famous Nankivell collection of Transvaal issues and further showed that by flaws the id black could be plated. Any guide however trivial, which will help in reconstructing a plate, must be interesting and, doubtless, there are numer us stamps of other countries which would repay careful examination in the sheet—the half-penny of New South Wales is a case in point. The flaw in itself is a triviality of the thinnest order but, if our knowledge of this or that stamp may be increased materially by a study of the flaws, then these latter are by no means to be despised. In the case of Holland, for example there are two very distinct flaws in the 25c of 1872 and, as these may be found with all the perforations and as these perforations denote distinct periods, it is clear that the same plates must have been in use for 17 or 18 years.

Collectors, both east and west of Suez, are worrying themselves about those wretched variations in type of the surcharge on Somaliland stamps and, incidentally, on those of Gwalior and the other convention states. One result of this everlasting surcharging is that collectors are divided into two classes, one of which takes every minute variety and the other ignores the issue entirely. Mr. Wilmot Corfield, in the pages of the *Philatelic Journal of India*. has commented strongly on these and other surcharges and suggests a taboo of all stamps of this class. A suggestion which I fear will find scanty support, as too many people are bitten with the trivial variation of-surcharge mania.

In passing through Bombay—a den of philatalic vice—I had the great pleasure of seeing Professor Müller's collection of Indian stamps. It is a most noteworthy fact that even such a fine collection is poor in mint blocks of four Many Indian stamps are almost unique in this condition. A block of four of the older issues is worth many times the value of four single specimens. India is at last receiving some of the attention from specialists which it richly deserves and we may expect much more attention to be paid to it when the hand-book now in course of preparation by Messrs. Hausburg and Stewart-Wilson appears.

The new Indian stamps with head of the Emperor are appearing gradually and two values are out with the "On H M S" surcharge. The five rupee value will probably have as long a life as the 6 annas stamp, as the stock will probably last until the Emperor is a centenarian. So do not be in a hurry to buy this stamp unused with the idea that it will soon become obsolete.

American philatelists will be pleased to learn that Mr. J. N. Luff has been invited by the Council of the Philatelic Society of India to become an Honorary member of that Society—a mark of appreciation of his philatelic work.





ANJOUAN -We quote the following from Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal:

"We learn from L' Annonce Timb ologique that a strip of four specimens of the soc brown on azure has been discovered, three of them lettered 'SULTANAT D'ANJOUAN' and the fourth 'ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON'. The story goes that this error existed only upon the first sheets printed which were sent to Berne; that one pair showing the two varieries was sent from thence to the Post Office at Brussels, where it was so little appreciated that it was returned to Berne, with a request that it might be replaced by a pair of stamps both bearing the same name. The authorities at Berne sent the curiosity back to Paris, where it is said to have been burnt, and the error in the printing form was at once corrected. The strip of four described above met with a better fate, falling into appreciative hands. It is satisfactory, however, to know that no sheets containing this error were ever actually issued for use."

BRITISH EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES -We quote from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News: "A correspondent writes that a supply of King's Head stamps was received at Mombasa per the 'B. I. Boat Fulwell' on Wednesday, 22nd July, and consisted of the values 1/2 anna, 2 anna, 1 and 2 rupees of the adhesive series, and small and large registered envelopes. Our correspondent reports that he purchased the last of the 2 annas Queen's Heads on 'Friday, 23rd [24th?-Ed.] July' (which somewhat conflicts with our statement of three weeks ago, but the latter was expressly confined to the G. P. O. and did not not take account of stock at outlying offices). Immediately on exhaustion of the Queen's Head stamps, the 2 annas King's Head was issued, so that we may formally record the date of issue as 24th July,

An innovation has been made in the size of the sheets which now contain 160 stamps divided into two panes of 80, instead of sheets of 120 divided into two panes of 60, as is Messrs De la Rue & Co.'s present system. The Queen's Head stamps were all in sheets of one pane of 60 only.

and a rupees are still in sheets of 60.

As there is a fair stock of Queen's Head 1/2 anna, 1 and 2 rupees still on hand, the new stamps of these values are not expected to be issued for several weeks.

BRITISH GUIANA - A correspondent sends us the following clipping from a Demerara newspaper: "The new sixty cents stamps which are available for postage, revenue and judicial purposes, were issued yesterday by the Government to the General Post Office The color of the stamp is green on white paper with red overprint. The stamps will be on sale on and after Monday."

BULGARIA.—Mr. P. V. Karaivanoff shows us the 1884 85, 3s on 10s rose (typographed surcharge) and the 1892, 15s on 33s brown, each with inverted surcharge. He also shows us a vertical pair of the 5s yellow green of 1889 without perforation between the stamps.

Another correspondent informs us that a provisional issue is in preparation. The current 15 stotinki stamp is about to be reduced to 10 stotinki by means of a surcharge. Excuses for this affliction are not vouchsafed us

0 0 0 0 0

ECUADOR.—Mr. A. Calman has shown us the 5c on 10c orange (No 72 in our catalogue) of the provisional issue of 1896-97, with double surcharge.

0 0 0 0 0

HAYTI.—There is a rumor, said to originate in official sources that an issue of stamps, to commemorate the centenary of the independence of the Republic, will be put on sale about the first of the coming year. We are indebted to Mr. L. S. De Jongh for this not over welcome information.

0 0 0 0 0

NICARAGUA.—Mr. A. M. Trujillo has shown us some sheets of the provisional 6 centavos on 10 centavos violet. The surcharge is printed in blocks of twenty-five (five rows of five). All the stamps of the top and bottom rows and those at the ends of the middle row have, in the centre of the surcharge, bars or pieces of fancy border type. There are six varieties of these additions and two copies of each variety. Besides this, there are two errors in the spelling of 'Centavos'. Number 4 has it "Centovos' and number 17" Contovos'. We illustrate the former variety.

27.22

6 Centovos

0 0 0 0 0

Servia.—We note by *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* that the 25p blue, of the series chronicled by us last month, has been found with a double impression of the "arms" overprint.

0 0 0 0 0

TURKISH OFFICES IN THESSALY: - Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send

us the following:

"Dealers are warned against forged Thessaly stamps, large quantities of which have been sent over from Constantinople mostly with forged postmarks, some even on entire envelopes. We shall be pleased to examine and report, free of charge, upon any sent us for that purpose."



BRITISH SOMALILAND.—L'Echo de la Timbrologie says: "The ½ anna of India, head of Edward VII, has received the surcharge SOMALILAND".

Adhesive stamp.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
Black surcharge.
½a green

CHINA —The current 5 cent stamp has appeared in a new color.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated
5c yellow

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC-Bolivar.

—Without comment we report additional color varieties of the series which has wasted so much space in our chronicle during recent months.

Adhesive stamps.

Imperforate. Laid paper.

50c purple on greenish blue

- ip orange on greenish blue ip green on yellow
- ip gray green on lilac sp carmine rose on rose
- 5p carmine rose on rose
 5p carmine rose on brown
- 5p carmine rose on greenish blue

Boyaca. — Ewen's Weekly Stamp News adds a few more to the list of parasites from this State, the designs being similar to those last noted.

We have also seen two high values, monstrous in size and design, a 5 pesos with a crude picture of a monu ment and a 10 pesos with an alleged portrait. These designs measure about 27x31mm and are separated in the sheets by vertical and horizontal rules.

Adhesite stamps.

Imperforate.

20c brown

Perforated 12.

ip dull lake red

sp black on rose

10p black on buff

Santander. — Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste chronicles a new provisional for this State It is a fiscal stamp of about the size and shape of our Special Delivery stamp, surcharged in two lines of sans serif type "PROVISIONAL.—CORREOS DE SANTANDER."

Adhesive stamp, Imperforate. Black surcharge (?) 50c red

pominica.—We have received the new issue for this island. The values from ½ penny to 2 shillings 6 pence show a view of a seaport with mountains in the background. The 5 shillings is of the same design as the corresponding value in the series issued in Antigua and Montserrat. We shall illustrate the stamps in our next number.

Adhesive stamps.
Watermarked Crown and C. C.
Perforated 14.
½p gray green

1p carmine and black
2p brown and gray green
2½p ultramarine and black
3p black and violet
6p orange brown and black
1sh gray green and red violet
2sh red violet and black
2sh 6p ochre and gray green
5sh brown and black

EAST AFRICA AND UGANDA PROTECTORATES.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News announces the appearance of the first of the King's head series.

Adhesive stamp.
Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perforated 14.
2a violet and lilac

FRANCE—Offices in China—Mongtse.—The set for this port has been completed by the addition of the five franc value bearing the name "MONGTZE" and Chinese characters in black.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 14x13½.
5fr red lilar on lavender

Pak Hoi. - The Deutsche Brief marken Zeitung records the completion of this set as follows:

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 14x13½.
Black surcharge.
5fr red lilac on lavender

Tchong King.—Several of our contemporaries report the following Indo China stamps surcharged "TCHONG-KING" and Chinese characters in black:

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated 14x13½.
Black surcharge.
1c black on lilac blue
2c brown on buff
4c claret on lavender
5c light green

10c red
15c gray
20c red on green
25c blue
30c brown on bistre
40c red on straw
50c carmine on rose
75c deep violet on yellow
1fr bronze green on straw

Yunnansen.—According to several of our contemporaries the following stamps of Indo China have been surcharged "YUNNANSEN" and Chinese characters in black:

Perforated 14x131/2. Black surcharge. ic black on lilac blue 2c brown on buff 4c claret on lavender 5c light green 10c red 15c gray 20c red on green 25c blue 30c brown on bistre 4oc red on straw 5cc carmine on rose 75c deep violet on yellow ifr bronze green on straw 5fr red lilac on lavender

Adhesive stamps.

FRENCH CONGO.—L'Echo de la Timbrologie chronicles two provisionals as follows:

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated.
Black surcharge (?).
5c on 3oc carmine-rose and orange
10c on 2fr carmine and brown

GUADELOUE.—We reprint the following from Stanley Gibbons Mon-thly Journal for August:

"A new French periodical Le Franc Parleur Philatelique, No. 1 of which has reached us recently, gives a full account of the projected publication (we can hardly call it an issue) of some 80,000 francs' worth

of overprinted stamps in this Colony, which quite reminds us of the good

(?) old times.

There is a decree, of course, signed by the Governor, and assigning the usual reason, namely, the exhaustion of supplies of stamps in the Colony; but it is perhaps unnecessary to add that, at the same time, an official letter was addressed by the Colonial Postmaster to various stamp dealers in Paris (and elsewhere, probably), offering them the whole stock of these precious stamps at a long price, and stating at the same time that there would be some competition for this bargain, and that the highest bidder would be the most likely person to get it.

We are very glad to hear that the Société Française de Timbrologie took prompt action, upon hearing of this little affair, by making an urgent appeal to the Minister for the Colonies, but we gather that they were too late to prevent the performance of the farce, for we have received some sheets of this rubbish, which we sup-

pose we must describe.

In the first place there is the usual assortment of contradictory combinations, even among the five values sent us, to disprove the excuse of 'necessity'. We have 5c. on 3oc., 1oc. on 4cc., 15c. on 5cc., 4cc. on 1fr, and ifr. on 75c. The overprint consists of the letters 'G' and 'D', presumably for Guadeloupe and Dependencies, which are already denoted on the stamps, with figures below for the new values. The overprints are all in black, and were printed on sheets of 50, two panes of 25 stamps side by side.

For the '5' on 30 and the '15' on 50 the same setting appears to have been used, with a figure '1' added for the higher value. We find no varieties of type in the numerals, which are 6 mm. in height, but a few of the figures '5' and several of the figures '1' are more or less damaged, and we are able to see that the same

'5' ôccurs in the same position on each sheet. The initials are given as 'G & D', and show several variations:-

1. Roman capitals, thick '&', on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 41, 42.

2. Roman capitals, ordinary '&', on Nos. 11, 32, 43, thus completing

the first three vertical rows.

3. Sans-serif capitals, thick '&', on Nos. 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 26. 29, 30, 34, 35, 38, 40, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50.

3a. Error of 3, with 'C' for 'G'.

on No. 28.

4. Sans serif capitals, ordinary '&'. on Nos. 5, 6, 20, 25, 36, 39

5. Thick capitals, with serifs, thick

'&', on Nos. 17, 37, 47.

6. As 5, but ordinary '&' on Nos.

7, 8, 27.
The 'ifr.' on 75 has the same setting of 'G & D' as that described above, but there are some some extraordinary vagaries in the value, producing a large number of additional varieties when combined with those of the lettering :-

1. Figure '1' 31/2 mm. high, 1 mm. thick, on Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49.

1a Same figure inverted, on Nos.

8, 13, 18, 23, 29, 32, 36, 45. 1b. Figure inverted and above 'G & D', on No 24.

2. Thick figure '1', 3 mm. high, 2 1/2 mm thick, on Nos. 30, 40, 50.

2a. same figure inverted, on No. 20. Curiously enough we can find no varieties of the letters 'fr.' which are

always followed by a stop.

On the '10' on 40 and the '40' on ifr the lettering is 'G et D'; the capitals are sans serif throughout, and we can only find one variation, a letter 't' of apparently a different font from the rest on No. 25 On No. 50 the letter 'D' has dropped too low. In the figures also there are only a limited number of varieties:- 10c on

40c red on yellow.

1. Figures '10' 3½mm. high, 7mm. in total width, on Nos. 1 to 20, among which are:

ia. No. 9 with 'o' too low, pro-

1b. No 20 with '1' inverted.

2. Figures '10' 4½mm high, '0' very narrow, 5mm. in total width, on Nos. 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39. 40, 43.

3. Wider '0', total width the same,

3. Wider 'o', total width the same, on Nos. 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 35, 41,

42, 44

4. Very wide, heavy figures, 3mm. high, 13mm, in total width, on Nos. 45 to 50.

40 on 1fr olive green on yellow.

1. Figures '40' of the same font as those of the first tpye of '10', 3½ mm. high. 7½ mm. in total width, on Nos 1 to 44.

2. Very wide heavy figures, as on the previous sheet, 3mm. high, 13mm. in total width, on Nos. 45 to 50."

To the above we add the following varieties though, not having seen any entire sheets, we are unable to definitely place the stamps upon the sheets, or to say whether there has been a second printing or not:—

Errors:—Letter 'C' instead of 'G'; icc on 4cc.; 15c. on 5oc.; 4oc.

on ifr and ifr. on 75c.

Surcharge inverted:—15c on 5oc.

normal:-15c. on 5oc.

"&" of wrong font:—1fr. on 75c. We have, also, an unsevered pair of a provisional unpaid letter stamp; 3oc. on 6oc. brown on cream, of the current French colonial type. Here the surcharge which consists of the letters 'G & D" with the new value below, is enclosed in a single-lined, rectangular frame; the lines of which are broken at the corners by small, fanciful ornaments.

The letters, though Roman capitals upon both stamps are from different fonts of type; one style shades down to a very thin line where the flags of the "G" connect with the vertical

stroke and upon the ends of the curve of the "D". In the other variety the lines are of about equal thickness throughout. The "&s" seem to be alike, but a curious fact is that, in the specimens before us, the "G" of one font is found with the "D" of the other LEcho de la Timbrologie also chronicles a 30c. on 1ft. rose on cream, with a different type of surcharge. We list therefore:—

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated 14x131/2.
Black surcharge.

5c. on 3cc. brown on bistre

icc. on 40c. red on straw

15c. on 5cc. carmine on rose 4cc. on 1fr bronze-green on straw

ifr. on 75c deep violet on orange

Varieties:—

"C" instead of "G".

5c. on 3cc brown on bistre

icc. on 40c. red on straw

15c. on 5cc. carmine on rose 4cc. on 1fr. bronze-green on straw 1fr. on 75c deep-violet on orange

Figure "1" inverted. 10c. on 4 c. red on straw

ifr. on 75c. deep violet on orange Figure "o" inverted.

10c on 40c red on straw

Numerals of value inverted. 15c. on 5cc. carmine on rose

Entire surcharge inverted.

Unpaid Letter stamps.

Imperforate. Black surcharge

3cc on 6oc. brown on cream

3oc. on 1fr. rose on cream

HONDURAS.—Mr. F. C. Reynolds calls our attention to some further varieties in the 1898 (Locomotive) issue. These are the 1c and 6c on laid paper and the 5c printed in the color of the 6c.

Adhesive stamps.
Perforated.
Laid paper.
1c brown

6c dull brown lilac

Wove paper. 5c brown lilac (error)

IOELAND.—We have seen the 5 aur stamp, with the old perforation, surcharged "I GILDI" etc.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 14x13½.
Red surcharge.
5a green

INDIA.—Mr. W. T. Wilson has kindly shown us the 6 annas of the King's head series. The stamp has the usual portrait of his majesty, in a rectangular panel, arched at the top and surmounted by a crown. The words "INDIA POSTAGE" appear on a curved tablet in the upper part of the stamp and the value in a straight line across the bottom.

Adhesive stamp
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
6a bistre

Gwalior.—The New England Stamp Co. send us the r anna carmine, Queen's head, surcharged for regular use in this State.

Adhesive stamp.
Watermarked Star.
Perforated 14.
Black surcharge,
1a carmine

MAURITIUS.—We have received the Labourdonnais stamp with the surcharge in three lines "EXPRESS—DELIVERY—15C." The surcharge is in sans-serif capitals, 5½mm. high, and practically obliterates the original design.

Special Delivery stamp.
Watermarked Crown and C. C.
Perforated 14.
Red surcharge.
15c on 15c ultramarine

PERSIA.—We have seen the 50 krans yellow green of the current issue with the surcharge "2 TOMANS" in red.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated.
Red surcharge.
2t on 5 k yellow green

ROUMANIA. — Mr. C. Witt has shown us the 15 bani of the ordinary issue in a new color.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 111/2.
15b violet

ST. LUCIA,—Another of the King's head set has appeared.

Adhesive stamp.
Watermarked C. A. and Crown.
Perforated 14.
1sh green and black

TAHITI.—Mr. William Thorne has shown us another provisional for this island. This is the 15 centimes blue, surcharged "TAHITI—IO—CENTIMES" in the same manner as the stamps which we chronicled in May. The stamp is shown with the surcharge, normal, inverted and double The 10c on 25c also exists with double surcharge.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 14x 3½.
Black surcharge.
10c on 15c blue

VICTORIA.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News reports the one penny of the current type with the compound perforation and, also, six new values of the series perforated "O. S." for official use.

Adhesive stamp. Watermarked V and Crown. Perforated 12 ½x11.

official stamps.
Watermarked V and Crown.
Perforated 12½.
Perforated "O. S."
½p blue green

3p brown orange 4p bistre

1s orange yellow 2s blue on rose

5s blue and vermilion

The Collectors Club.

The 97th meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the club house on Monday evening, September 14, 1903.

Present: Messrs. Andreini, Dewing, Luff, Rich, Scottand Perrin,

The meeting was called to order by the President at 8.10 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The resignation of Mr. Wm Knudson was read, and accepted with

regrets.

The report of the committee to devise rules for the governing of future competitive exhibitions was submitted to the Board of Governors, as follows:

1—All exhibitors must be members of the club, and in good standing.

2—All stamps entered must be the absolute property of the exhibitors.

3-In any exhibition in which arrangement is to count, the stamps must

be arranged by the owner.

4-A collection which has previously won a prize in this country shall not be eligible in competition for a prize of the same grade, but it may compete for a prize of higher or lower grade.

5-When a competition is limited to a certain number of stamps, only

that number of stamps may be shown.

6-Pairs and blocks may be shown, but only one stamp will be considered and counted.

7-In judging a collection condition is to count 25 per cent., rarity 25

per cent., and completeness 50 per cent.

8—Unless at least two competitive entries are entered, no first prize can be awarded; likewise three competitive entries must be entered for a second prize to be awarded, and four competitive entries for an award of a third prize.

9-The name of the exhibitor should not appear on the exhibit, but a

private mark may be affixed, indicating such exhibitor's ownership.

10-All exhibits must be in the hands of the judges at least two days before the date of exhibition.

We recommend that special rules be made for special exhibitions whenever it shall seem desirable to the Governors.

Signed for the committee by

ALBERT PERRIN, Secretary.

The above report was accepted, and the committee discharged with thanks

The Treasurer's report, showing a cash balance in bank of \$173 37, was approved as read.

The report of the House Committee was read and received.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. P. Kohl for a copy of his latest catalogue.

The death of Mr J. V. Painter was announced and referred to the Com-

mittee on Biography.

The application of Mr. Geo. L. Toppan, having been posted the required length of time, was balloted upon and he was declared to have been unanimously elected a subscribing member of the club. The following application for membership was received and posted on the bulletin board:

W. H Manning, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Proposed by John N. Luff; seconded by Jos S. Rich.

Adjourned at 10 P. M. ALBERT PERRIN, Secretary.